

NGAC RESOLUTION

The National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) is encouraged by the progress the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) community is making in implementing the Geospatial Data Act of 2018 (GDA). The NGAC has provided initial comments on GDA implementation through its paper, “Initial Comments on Geospatial Data Act Implementation” (May 2019), and through ongoing inputs to the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) strategic plan and the FGDC’s GDA biennial report to Congress.

The NGAC resolves that:

1. Given the vital and growing role that integrated geospatial information and technology plays in our society, ***the NGAC strongly supports the GDA and believes it to be a comprehensive approach and roadmap for advancing the NSDI.***
2. Given that the GDA planning and reporting requirements are considerable and highly complex, ***the NGAC recommends streamlining of the reporting processes to ensure focused, efficient, and consistent reporting across government.***
3. Given the NGAC’s May 2019 Comments on the GDA, the NGAC believes the FGDC community does not have sufficient resources, either within the FGDC Office of Secretariat or within FGDC covered agencies, to adequately meet the implementation requirements of the GDA. This lack of resources puts successful implementation of the GDA at significant risk. ***Specifically, NGAC recommends that the FGDC work with the Office of Management and Budget to ensure adequate resources are made available to the FGDC and covered agencies to:***
 - a. Accomplish the coordination, planning, communication, reporting, and collaboration duties of FGDC as required by the GDA in Sections 753(c) and 755(c);
 - b. Enable lead covered agencies to provide the leadership, coordination, and management required in Section 756(b) of the GDA to advance nationwide development, maintenance, and open accessibility of the NGDA data themes for all organizations and the public, through partnerships with all appropriate stakeholders;
 - c. Transform interagency service delivery collaboration to take advantage of the most efficient and effective technologies for providing access to integrated geospatial data from all appropriate NSDI stakeholders, as required in Section 758 of the GDA;
 - d. Strengthen the content, quality, data management, and service delivery for each of the NGDA data themes by responsible covered agencies, as required in Sections 756 and 759 of the GDA.

*Adopted by the NGAC on June 10, 2020